

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-71 were previously pending in this application. Within the previous Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 9-20, 27-34, 47, 62, 63, 65, 66, 68, 70 and 71 have been rejected. Claims 3-8, 21-26, 35-46, 48-61, 64, 67 and 69 are objected to. However, after a telephone conversation with Examiner, the independent Claims 35, 48 and 67 are allowed. By the above amendment, Claims 3 and 47 have been canceled. Accordingly Claims 1, 2, 4-46 and 48-72 are now pending in this application. An interview was conducted on February 17, 2005. The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's thoughtful and helpful comments during the interview.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Within the previous Office Action, Claims 1, 9-13, 17-20, 27-34 and 47 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,526,581 to Reichard (hereinafter "Reichard").

Within the Office Action, Examiner stated that Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the above amendments, the independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 3 and is allowable over Reichard.

Claims 9-13, 17-20 and 27-34 are all dependent on the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings Reichard. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 9-13, 17-20 and 27-34 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claims 3 and 47 has been canceled by the above amendments.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Within the previous Office Action, Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reichard in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,039,593 to Hubbuch (hereinafter "Hubbuch").

Claim 2 is dependent on the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings Reichard. Accordingly, the dependent Claim 2 is also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Within the previous Office Action, Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Reichard in view of Hubbuch as applied to U.S. Patent No. 5,310,440 to Zingher (hereinafter "Zingher").

Claims 14-16 are dependent on the independent Claim 1. As discussed above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over Reichard. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 14-16 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Within the Office Action, Claims 62, 63, 65-68, 70 and 71 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hubbuch in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,450,472 to Tuckerman (hereinafter "Tuckerman").

The independent Claim 62 has been amended by the above Amendments above is allowable over Hubbuch, Tuckerman and their combination.

Claims 63, 65 and 66 are dependent on the independent Claim 62. As discussed above, the independent Claim 62 is allowable over the teachings of Hubbuch, Tuckerman and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 63, 65 and 66 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 67 is an independent claim that has been allowed by Examiner after a phone conversation with Applicant.

Claims 68, 70 and 71 are all dependent on the independent Claim 67. As discussed above, the independent Claim 67 is allowable over the teachings of Hubbuch, Tuckerman and their combination. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 63, 65 and 66 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

### **Objections**

Within the Office Action, Claims 4-8, 21-26, 36-46, 49-56, 58-61, 64, and 69 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim; Claims 35, 48, 57 and 67 are all independent. During the telephone interview, the Examiner acknowledged that Claims 35, 48 and 67 are allowable, but that an updated search would be performed. Claim 57 was not discussed. Claims 4-8 and 21-26 are dependent upon the independent Claim 1 which is now allowable. Claims 36-46 are dependent upon the allowable independent Claim 35. Claims 49-56 are dependent upon the independent Claim 48. Claims 58-61 are dependent upon the independent Claim 57. Applicant asserts Claim 57 is allowable for it is independent but was merely objected to in the Office Action. Claim 64 is dependent upon the allowable independent Claim 62. Claim 69 is dependent upon the independent Claim 67. As discussed above, the independent Claims 1, 35, 48, 57, 62 and 67 are all allowable over the cited prior art references

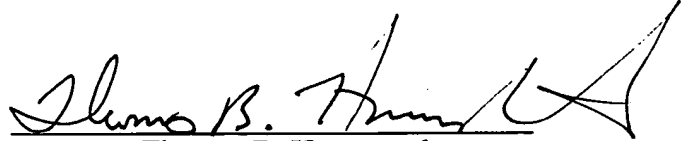
of Reichard, Hubbuch and Tuckerman. Accordingly, the dependent Claims 4-8, 21-26, 36-46, 49-56, 58-61, 64 and 69 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,  
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 2-18-05

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

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HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP.

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